



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

INSIDE
TRACKS

The Newsletter of Region One

Volume 9, No. 3

Summer 1999

Survey Shows Nearly Complete Support for Hunting and Fishing

A new public survey in northwest Montana shows strong interest in fish, wildlife and parks resources, and a high acceptance of the responsible harvest of animals and fish.

The survey, conducted by an independent research group in May, indicated that nearly everyone in northwest Montana approves of legal hunting and fishing. Support for legal trapping is not as strong, but is still approved by a 2:1 margin (See Figures). These results are very similar to findings from a 1997 statewide survey.

Northwest Montanans hunt and fish at a higher rate than the statewide average. Over 60 percent of northwest

Montanans are active anglers (have fished in the last two years). This is considerably higher than the 44 percent figure found statewide. More people are active hunters in northwest Montana (40 percent) as compared to statewide (32 percent).

About half of northwest Montanans are active state park visitors and wildlife viewers.

The survey also found that most northwest Montanans believe that agriculture and forestry practices are compatible with sound wildlife management.

The survey found a number of differences in regards to gender and age. A greater percentage of men hunt and fish, and support wildlife harvest. Hunting and fishing participation, and support of those activities, is less in older age groups as compared to younger groups.

A majority (65 percent) of northwest Montanans approve of the overall job that FWP is doing in the Region, while 19 percent are dissatisfied. Interestingly, a higher percentage of

people who hunt and fish are dissatisfied as compared to non-hunters and anglers. A follow-up survey is planned to identify ways that FWP can better serve northwest Montanans.



GOOD NEWS for anglers. A new survey shows that nearly everyone in northwest Montana supports legal hunting, fishing, and responsible harvest of wildlife.

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About the survey

Scope of the survey: Random telephone survey of 202 adults living in the northwest Montana counties: Flathead, Lincoln, Lake, Sanders.

Dates of survey: The survey was conducted on May 17-18, 1999.

Basic procedures:

- Phone numbers were generated by computer; the method used the most accurate, state-of-the-art sampling possible; survey was conducted by A & A Research of Kalispell.
- Male and female ratio was balanced (respondents included 100 males and 102 females)
- Only adults (persons 18 and older) were interviewed

Survey Accuracy: The survey is accurate to 7.1 percent level; A similar survey conducted statewide in 1997 had 500 respondents; our survey covering only 4 counties had 202 respondents.



FREE COPY

PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

Good News for Northwest Montana Hunters and Anglers

Northwest Montana is fishing and hunting country. A majority of people fish, hunt or both; nearly everyone supports fishing and hunting as part of our heritage.

	<u>NW Montana</u>	<u>Montana</u>	<u>Nationwide</u>
% people who hunt	40	32	7
% people who fish	61	44	17
% people who approve			
legal hunting	94	92	73
legal fishing	95	97	95

Even nationwide, most people support legal fishing and hunting. These figures break the myth that there is a large block of people who are undecided about our wildlife use heritage. Nearly everyone recognizes the value and positive aspects of responsible hunting and fishing.

Sources: NW MT—1999 survey, 202 respondents; MT—1997 survey, 505 respondents; Nationwide—1996 survey, 2,085 respondents


Citizen Advisory Group Looking for New Members

The current survey on hunting and fishing was designed in conjunction with the Citizen Advisory Committee. If you would like to become a member, contact FWP for an application.

FWP's Citizen Advisory Committee has been a very effective way to include public knowledge and guidance in FWP's internal management processes. For the past three years, the committee has provided important input on wildlife management, public information, and state parks issues.

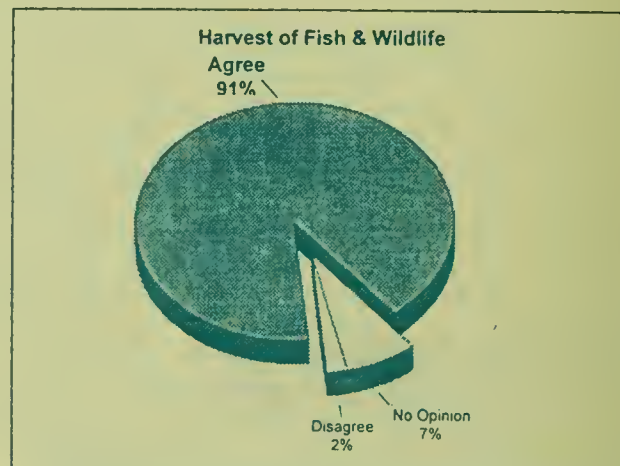
There are currently three openings on the 12-member committee, and FWP is requesting applicants from the general public. Citizen Advisors attend about six evening meetings per year with the Region One FWP staff and advise them on conducting FWP business. Advisors contribute to the following:

- Help promote Montana's strong hunting, fishing, and recreational traditions;
- Help make FWP personnel more available and responsive to the public;
- Contribute to local decision-making and local solutions;
- Make FWP aware of issues before they become problems;
- Influence the management of northwest Montana's fish, wildlife and parks resources.

Region One Supervisor Dan Vincent says that business leaders, and applicants from Sanders County, are particularly needed. Persons interested in applying for these volunteer positions should contact Noemí Barta at FWP, 751-4567, for an application. 

Harvest of Fish and Wildlife:

"Legal harvest of fish and wildlife as a renewable natural resource is acceptable, can occur without harming fish and wildlife populations, and in some cases can benefit fish and wildlife." Nearly everyone — 91% — agrees with this statement; 66% strongly agree and 25% somewhat agree.



1999 Montana Big Game Seasons

These dates are provided ONLY AS A GUIDE. Season dates may vary from those listed here. Check the current year's regulations for specifics.

Antelope (archery)	Sept. 4 - Oct. 9
Antelope (gun)	Oct. 10 - Nov. 7
Black Bear	Apr. 15 - May 31
and	Sept. 15 - Nov. 28
Deer/Elk (archery)	Sept. 4 - Oct. 17
Deer/Elk (backcountry)	Sept. 15 - Nov. 28
Deer/Elk (gun)	Oct. 24 - Nov. 28
Goat	Sept. 15 - Nov. 28
Lion	Oct. 24 - Nov. 28 and Dec. 1 - April 14, 2000
Moose	Sept. 15 - Nov. 28
Sheep	Sept. 15 - Nov. 28

1999 Montana Upland Bird Seasons

Grouse, Sage	Sept. 1 - Nov. 1
Grouse, Mountain & Sharp-tail	Sept. 1 - Dec. 15
Partridge	Sept. 1 - Dec. 15
Pheasant	Oct. 9 - Dec. 15
Turkey, Spring	April 10 - May 9
Turkey, Fall	Sept. 1 - Dec. 15

1999 Montana Furbearer Seasons

Beaver, Mink, Muskrat, Otter	Nov. 1 - April 15
Bobcat, Fisher, Lynx, Marten, Wolverine	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15

1999 Montana Fishing Seasons

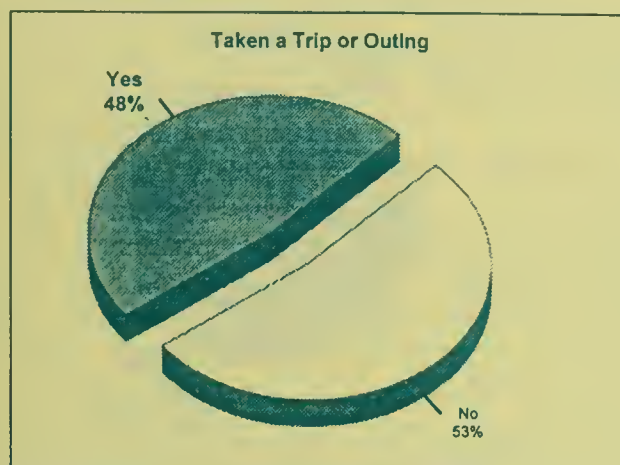
Rivers** & Streams	May 15 - Nov. 30
Lakes	Open entire year

Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks



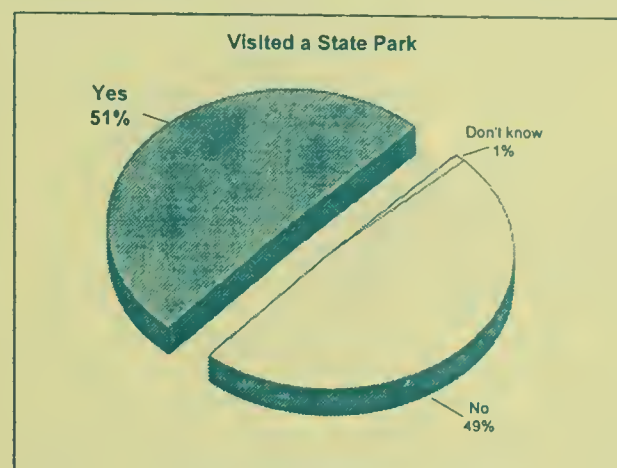
TRIP OR OUTING

All respondents were asked: "During the past 2 years have you taken a trip or outing more than a mile from home for the primary purpose of watching or photographing wildlife? Please do not include trips to the zoo, aquarium, or museum." Nearly half – 48% -- have taken a trip or outing.



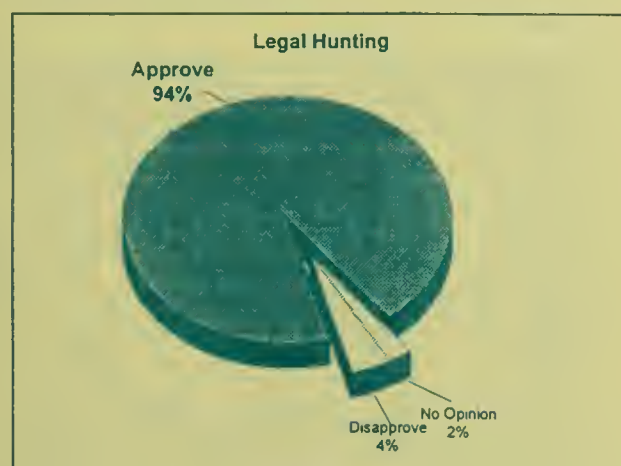
STATE PARK

All respondents were asked: "During the past 2 years have you visited a state park? Please note that state parks do not include Yellowstone or Glacier National Parks or any of the national forest lands." Half of the people – 51% -- have visited a state park.



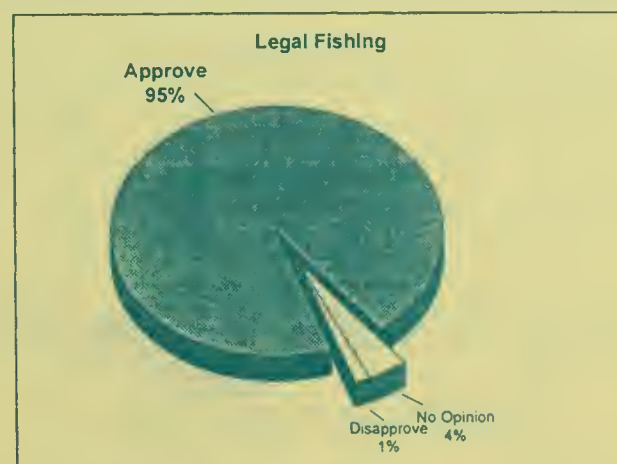
Legal Hunting

Nearly all of the adults – 94% -- approve of legal hunting: 78% strongly approve and 16% somewhat approve. Only 4% disapprove.



Legal Fishing

Nearly all of the adults – 95% -- approve of legal fishing: 87% strongly approve and 7% somewhat approve. Only 1% disapprove.



Legal Trapping

Over half of the adults – 55% -- approve of legal trapping: 30% strongly approve and 25% somewhat approve. Nearly three out of ten people – 28% -- disapprove: 20% strongly disapprove and 8% somewhat disapprove.



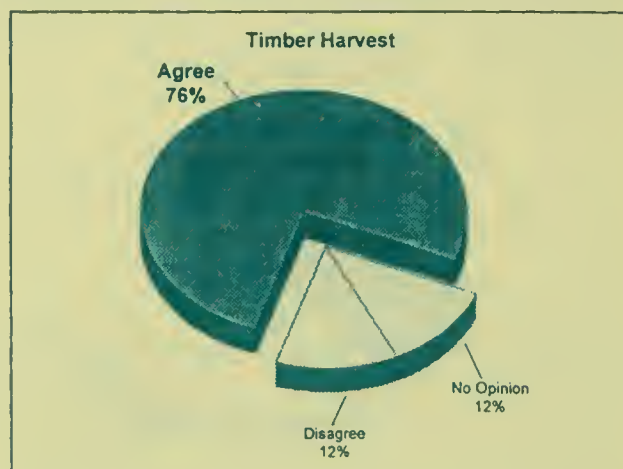
Agricultural Practices:

"Agricultural practices, like farming and grazing, can occur without harming fish and wildlife populations and, in some cases, can benefit fish and wildlife." More than four out of five people – 85% -- agree with this statement: 58% strongly agree and 27% somewhat agree.



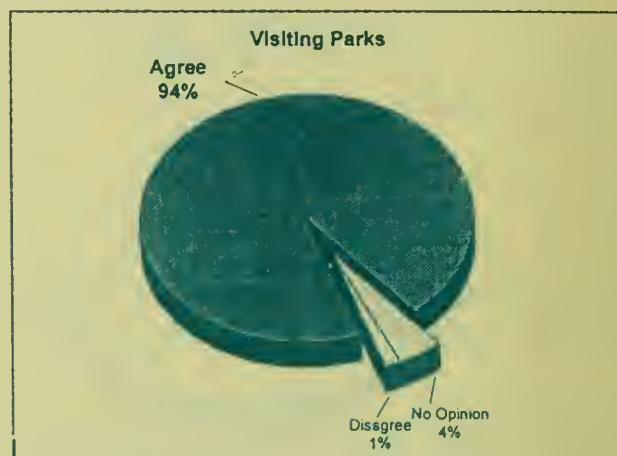
Timber Harvest:

"Timber harvest can occur without harming fish and wildlife populations, and in some cases can benefit fish and wildlife." Three out of four people – 76% -- agree with this statement: 47% strongly agree and 30% somewhat agree.



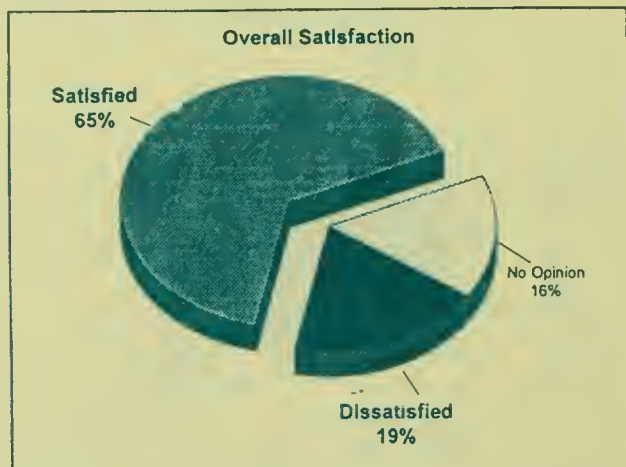
Visiting:

"Visiting parks, biking, hiking, swimming, boating, and watching wildlife are all uses of renewable natural resources and have some impact on them. However, if done responsibly, these uses can occur without harming fish and wildlife." Nearly everyone – 94% -- agrees with this statement: 75% strongly agree and 19% somewhat agree.



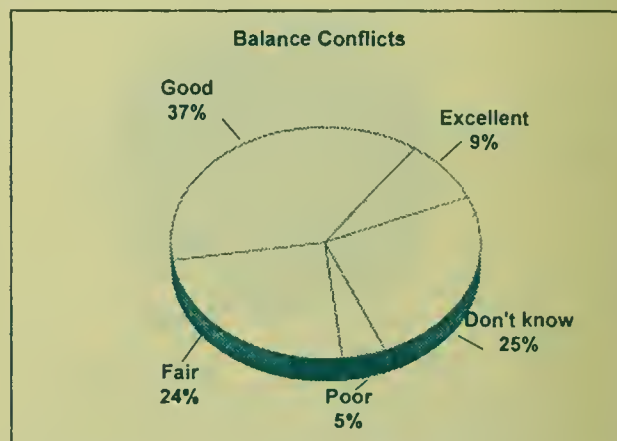
OVERALL SATISFACTION

All respondents were asked: "Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, very dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or have no opinion about the overall job that Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is doing?" Nearly two out of three people – 65% -- are satisfied: 19% are very satisfied and 47% are somewhat satisfied.



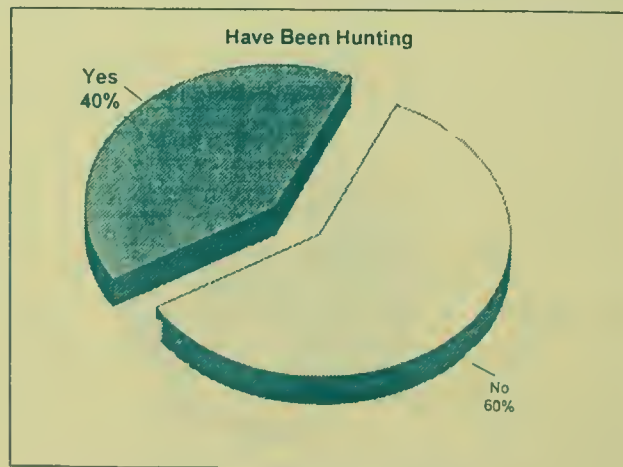
BALANCING HUMAN & WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

All respondents were asked: "How well does Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks balance human and wildlife conflicts with the conservation and protection of the state's wildlife—do you think they do excellent, good, fair, poor, or you don't know?" Nine percent feel that they are doing an excellent job; 37% feel that it is a good job; 24% feel that it is a fair job; 5% feel that it is a poor job; and 25% indicate that they don't know.



HUNTING

All respondents were asked: "Within the past 2 years have you been hunting in Montana?" Two out of five people – 40% -- have been hunting.



FISHING

All respondents were asked: "Within the past 2 years have you been fishing in Montana?" Three out of five people – 61% -- have been fishing.



Focus on Hunter Education

Thank You!!!

Northwest Montana's volunteer Hunter Education Instructors give generously of their time to train youngsters to be safe and responsible hunters.

Here is a list of the 1999 service award recipients for Hunter and Bowhunter Education;

Hunter Education: 5 year—Dustin Bowen, Bobbi Burgess, John Burgess, Paul Charbonneau, Randy Coffman, Jon Cuthbertson, Tim Darr, Nicholas DeGreek, Bill Eisentraut, Marty Fregario, Jessica Ogren, Denver Quimby, Dale Sommerfield, Wayne Stevens, Josh Molzhon, Larry Rattray, Jim Shrider, Patrick Flanary, Michael Gannon, John Mee, Tim Thier. 10 year—Frank Bowen, Ronny Nail, Bruce Clark. 20-year—Robert Edwards. 25-year—Frank Sighting.

Bowhunter Education: 5-year—Richard Anderson, Tim Darr, Bob Howard, Ronny Nail, Matt Riley, Larry Rattray, Leslie Theonnes. 10-year—Dean Chapel, Mark Mason, Mark Natale, Danny Place.



MAINTAINING THE HUNTING HERITAGE. *The Hunter Education Advisory Council has developed a set of recommendations designed to help maintain Montana's strong hunting heritage.*

WILDLIFE AND THE AMERICAN MIND

**Public Opinion on and Attitudes
toward Fish and Wildlife
Management**

**Mark Damian Duda
Steven J. Bissell
Kira C. Young
Responsive Management**

"WILDLIFE AND THE AMERICAN MIND" is perhaps the most thorough treatment yet of Americans' opinions about hunting and fishing. A copy is available at your local FWP office.

Hunter Advisory Council Completes Work

Thanks to a group of citizens concerned about the future of hunting, game violators could now face stiffer fines and be required to attend a Hunter Education course.

The FWP Hunter Behavior Advisory Council has completed its work, and this has resulted in passage of Senate Bill 381 through the Montana Legislature. The bill calls for:

- A remedial education program for game violators;
- Three strikes and you're out rule: people will be banned from hunting in Montana if they commit serious game violations three times within a 10 year period;
- An "Advanced" Adult Hunter Education program;
- Stiffer fines for certain violations.

Local representative Don Bothwell, a Kalispell Hunter Education Instructor, says that members of the Council worked well together. Bothwell noted that the Council was united in their belief that education and deterrents are both necessary to improve the behavior and image of hunters in Montana. Bothwell says the Council will meet periodically to reassess progress on the recommendations.

Anglers Reel 'Em in at

About 50 anglers with disabilities caught 31 lake trout on the sixth annual "Fishing Without Barriers Day" on Flathead Lake, held on June 17. The anglers, who ranged from 12-80 years of age, were hosted by nine Montana Charterboat captains and 10 private boat operators. The lake trout ranged in size from 17-37 inches, and weighed up to 13-1/2 pounds.

Rachel Osborne, a young woman from Missoula, won a hand held fish-

ing game as a prize for her 29-inch, 8-pound lake trout. Others won a free fish mount service for their 37-inch lake trout, and a hand held fishing game for the smallest lake trout. The "Fishing Without Barriers Day" is the only chance many of the participants get to fish during the year because of their mobility impairments.

The annual event is made possible by generous donations of boats, time, fishing tackle and expertise by the

Montana Charterboat Association and others. Jim Landwehr of the association says that it's a chance for them to give back to the community. Landwehr and the other charter captains obviously enjoy sharing their love of Flathead Lake fishing with the anglers.

The anglers and participants were treated to a special fish fry and barbecue after fishing. The lake trout fillets, rolled in cornmeal and deep-fat-fried, were the most popular attraction, fol-

A FULL CREW. Captain Shorty Goggins prepares to cast off with a boat load of anglers at the annual 'Fishing Without Barriers' Day. Shorty was one of nine Charterboat captains and ten private boat owners who hosted about 50 anglers.



BIG AND PLENTIFUL. Four good-sized lake trout were the catch for this angler, helped by Charterboat Captain Jim Landwehr.



A TRADITION. Gary Fend (above) of Glacier Charters has taken part in the event all s years.

SHOWING OFF his fine lake trout is another satisfied angler (left).

'Fishing Without Barriers' Day

...wed by Jerry Howard's home-baked chocolate chip cookies.

Thanks are in order for everyone who participated, including:

Charterboat Captains: Jim Landwehr, Gary Fend, Glacier Fishing Charters; Shorty Goggins, Cal Mischke, A-Able Fishing Charters; Jerry Landskrum, Woods Bay Charters; Russ Tindale, John Natacia, A-1 Charters; Dusty Bagley, Bagley Guide

Service; Karl Mann, Montana Experience Outfitters.

Private Boat Operators: Cecil McKinley, Dan Wright, Daryle Handy, Frank Cooley, Dan Hartwell, Guy Larendau, George Hover, Tim Shelton, Jim Vashro, Bill Harris.

Tim Brubaker, God's Country Taxidermy: donated the fish mounting service.

Special thanks to: Barry, Darin,

Sean, and Dionne Schrammeck: Owners of Woods Bay Marina.

FWP's Crossing the Barriers Committee: Jerry Howard (arranged for the food and beverages, baked cookies), Pat Thomas, Harry Grove, Sue McDonald (cooked the hot dogs), Bob and Wanda Worley (fried the fish).

Businesses: Fun Beverage, Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, Super 1 Foods, Tidyman's, Smiths, Eddies Bread, Costco, Frito Lay.

Thanks to everyone!



PROUD. Daryle Handy, private boat operator, is as proud of his passenger's catch as the angler himself! Daryle brought his boat all the way from Eureka for the event.



ANOTHER FINE CATCH. Rachel Osborne of Missoula landed a 29-inch, 9-pound lake trout.

A HAPPY ANGLER (below) from Flathead Industries with his lake trout.



CLEANING UP. Bob Domrose, Gary Fend and Jim Landwehr filet lake trout for the fish fry.

BIGGEST CATCH OF THE DAY. Anglers from Flathead Industries hold the 37-inch, 13 1/2-pound lake trout they caught.

Hooked on Fishing

Kudos for FWP's 'Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs' Program

We received the following letter from a happy parent whose son was in the 'Hooked on Fishing' Program during this past school year.

To Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks,

My ten-year-old son came home from fishing last night: tired, no fish, and happy. He's going fishing again tonight with his dad, and I've heard whispers of mysterious, secret spots known only to a select and favored few. When we shop, instead of professional wrestling magazines, my son now hovers above "Power Bait" and "spider wire leaders," something called smelt and huge yellow bass plugs. I spend half my life untangling hopeless snarls on open-faced reels and digging worms.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

My son is finishing up his fourth-grade year with Mrs. Sander at East Evergreen Elementary School. I don't know the details, but I understand that several fourth-grade classes are involved with you in a fishing program of some sort, and I'm here to tell you that it has made a big difference to a whole group of kids out here. I hear them talking among themselves about fishing, and how cold it was, and how big they were, and what bait they used. For heaven's sake, he had me out in a driving snow storm in the West Valley area, fishing, and loving every minute of it.

I would think that you might not realize the full impact of this program from your offices there. And how could you—unless somebody tells you? I've even dug out that fly-fishing book I've had for years and never read. And I saw another parent just the other day out snagging bushes and making an idiot of himself with a fly rod—with his fourth-grade son!

See what you've started? Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stevens (and Michael Stevens)
Kalispell



'HOOKED ON FISHING' STUDENTS learn facts, skills and values in this program, which is highly praised by parents, teachers and others who have seen the results in Montana communities.

INSIDE TRACKS is published by Region One



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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Brian Marotz, Fisheries Mitigation Coordinator
Alan Wood, Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator
John Fraley, Information Officer, Newsletter Editor

For more information on FWP issues, listen to:

"Northwest Outdoors,"

FWP's weekly radio show, Thursdays
at 8:35 a.m. on KGEZ, 600 AM.



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